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Message Text

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51
ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 INT-08 SCEM-02

AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SPC-03 CIEP-02 OMB-01 STR-08

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 DRC-01 /227 W
---------- 061261
P R 101112Z OCT 73
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5142
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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DEPT PASS CAIRO

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, PINS, SA, XF
SUBJ: BBC ARABIC REPORT ON SAG OIL WEAPON

1. BBC IN ARABIC AT 1630 LOCAL OCT 9 WAS PICKED UP IN JIDDA AS QUOTING PRINCE SULTAN, SAUDI MINDEF AND AVIATION, AS HAVING SAID SAUDIS WILL NOT STOP EXPORTATION OF OIL TO US BUT WILL RESTRICT ITS PRODUCTION TO QUANTITIES SUFFICIENT TO MEET NEEDS OF SAUDI ARABIA ONLY.

2. IMPLICATION OF REMARKS WAS THAT THEY REPRESENTED NEW POLICY BEING ENUNCIATED AT TIME OF ARAB-ISRAELI WAR, ESPECIALLY AS THEY WERE LUMPED TOGETHER WITH ITEM SAYING PRINCE SULTAN
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HAD ACCUSED U.S. OF NOT TAKING A MODERATE POSITION ON CONFLICT.

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HOWEVER, FONMIN SOURCE, WHEN QUESTIONED BY EMBOFF, SAID HE TOO HAD HEARD ABOUT BBC REPORT, BUT HAD SUBSEQUENTLY DETERMINED THAT SULTAN'S REMARKS ABOUT OIL WERE TAKEN OUT OF CONTEXT: THEY WERE MEANT TO EXPLAIN SAUDI STAND AS PREVIOUSLY ENUNCIATED BY FAISAL WITH REGARD TO USING ITS OIL AS PRESSURE ON U.S. IF WE DO NOT CHANGE OUR POLICY. SULTAN'S REMARKS ON OIL QUESTION, HOWEVER, HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH CURRENT HOSTILITIES.

3. COMMENT: OCCURS TO EMBASSY THAT BBC ARABIC PROGRAM, AT TIMES LIKE THIS, OFTEN GIVES SLANTED ARAB-NATIONALIST LINE TO ITS COVERAGE.
HORAN

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED CAIRO.

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: ENRG, PINS, SA, XF
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Type: TE
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